

Director Leads Marijuana Raid

With a vow that "we're going to ratchet this program up," Director Cy Jamison recently led his first marijuana raid in a remote area of public land in northern California.

Accompanied by California State Director Ed Hastey, a number of BLM special agents and rangers and local sheriff's officers, Jamison led an early morning helicopter raid that netted about 300 plants with an estimated street value of more than \$1 million.

The raid was the 14th on the public lands in California in a record-breaking year for the number of marijuana plants eradicated on BLM lands. Since the Director's visit, the statistics have climbed to 34 raids, netting 22,800 plants, almost twice last year's total, as the growing season draws to a close.

The BLM effort is "part of the national commitment to crack down on drug operators on all fronts," Jamison said. He also said the BLM will step up its effort to eradicate drugs on public lands. "We just can't tolerate it out here."

Jamison commended BLM law enforcement personnel involved in the raid and promised

strong support from management for their efforts.

"We're going to throw everything at it but the kitchen sink," he said. "If they're going to grow in remote places like this, we're going to use all of the technology and all of the resources of the federal government to get them." ■



Director Cy Jamison, right, examines marijuana confiscated at a California raid with BLM special agent Chris Brong. UPI photo by Dan Groshong.

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Wyoming Children Help Restore Riparian Area

Restoring important riparian habitat is a delicate balancing process, one that requires a myriad of specialists, complicated plans and scientific study. But there's also room for laypeople, or children, to help.

In Casper, Wyo., Westwood teacher Vicki Foster wanted to teach sixth grade students environmental education in such a way that would change their feelings about the world around them. She wanted them to develop an understanding of a variety of habitats, develop a vocabulary of environmental terms, and create respect for natural habitats.

Through Westwood's contacts with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), she was introduced to Willie Fitzgerald, wildlife biologist at the Casper District's Platte River Resource Area.

He had just the spot for the sixth graders: the Bolton Creek riparian area about 30 miles southwest of Casper. Historically, the parcel was used during the spring and fall seasons when livestock were driven to and from the Laramie Range summer ranges. Some livestock also wintered on the creek.

Eroded draws and heavy brush along the stream made moving livestock difficult, so in 1984, 320 acres were fenced out of the stock driveway. In the first year of the enclosure, the WGFD and the BLM began work on stream improvements. The area provided the grade school an opportunity to work on an ongoing project.

The 1988-89 class of Westwood sixth graders began work in late September 1988.

Twenty-six students, parents, teachers, and BLM biologists constructed two checkdams on the stream designed to trap sediment and raise the level of the water table to enhance riparian vegetation. Students also wrapped 20 established cottonwood trees with chicken wire to protect them from hungry beavers.

Later, employees from BLM and the WGFD held an "Education Day" at Bolton Creek. The children met with a hydrologist, an archaeologist, a range specialist, a game warden, an education specialist, and a wildlife biologist. Exhibits

were set up on watershed, riparian zone importance and vegetation, upland vegetation, and skins and skulls of wildlife indigenous to the region.

During winter, the students studied the effects of drought and animal damage on tree seedlings.

The next spring, they again ventured to the rugged area. Fifty cottonwood seedlings

were ordered by the school's Student Council from the County Extension Agency. Students planted them in oxbows on Bolton Creek and fenced them for protection. It was hoped that natural dams built there by beavers would provide a more constant source of water for the new trees.

Because of the significance of the work on the riparian area and the opportunity for students to learn, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed to formalize the cooperative efforts. This MOU outlined specific objectives concerning stream improvements, riparian vegetation, and upland vegetation to guide projects in future years.

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Jude Carino, Casper District archaeologist, explains artifacts to students of Westwood School.

Alaska's Student Program Blossoming

by Tricia Hogervorst-Rukke
Alaska State Office
Writer Editor

Alaska is often referred to as "The Last Frontier." In many ways life in rural Alaska resembles the Lower 48 frontier of 100 years ago. The winters are long and hard, the villages are isolated and remote, modern conveniences are few and unemployment is high.

All this makes it difficult for Alaska Native youth to compete for job opportunities. Alaska Native students who go on to college often have difficulty selecting a major. A recent study indicated that only 3 1/2 percent of Alaska's Natives have college degrees, compared with 24 percent of Alaska's white population.

But with just two students in 1987, Tom Dean, Fairbank's Arctic district manager, started a program that adds a twist to the traditional hosted worker program and has come up with a winning combination for both Native Alaskans and the Bureau of Land Management.

The program, called the Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students, or RAPS, is in its third year. The goals of the program are to introduce students to and develop their interests in natural resources management and open up possible career paths for them. In addition, the program serves as a bridge, linking the potential labor pool with a demonstrated employment need.

Most of the jobs are located away from the students' homes. The students live with a volunteer host family, exposing them to cultural differences in larger cities. Expenses such as room, board, and transportation are provided by Native nonprofit corporations and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"Lining up host families is the hardest part," RAPS coordinator Bob Jones said. "The program is set up to be a two-tiered mentoring program designed to mentor on and off the job.

The host family provides a wholesome living environment; BLM provides the overview of natural resources activities and a work environment."

High school juniors Richard Williams from Barrow and William Okakok from Point Hope were the first students to participate. They spent six weeks interpreting and plotting lake depths on maps; working on archaeological excavations; tracking and mapping radio-collared caribou; conducting fish surveys; assisting in locating and evaluating recreation opportunities and learning to input scientific information into computers.



RAPS students Audrey Brown and Richard Williams from Barrow paint the information board for Coldfoot Visitor Center.

The program has since blossomed across the state to other agencies. BLM expanded the program in 1988 to include 12 students; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hired two and the National Park Service hired one student.

In 1989 BLM sponsored 11 students; the National Park Service, nine; the Fish & Wildlife Service, four; the Forest Service, three; Alyeska Pipeline Company, one; Doyon Native Corporation, one; and Alaska State Parks, one.

"This is just the beginning," Jones said. "We hope to have 40 to 45 students in 1990 and to

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Land Information System Q&As

1. How important is the Land Information System (LIS) to BLM?

Director Cy Jamison has identified LIS as one of his top priorities. Furthermore, as LIS is implemented, it will greatly assist in the Director's other priorities such as range monitoring, riparian management, *Fish & Wildlife 2000* and *Recreation 2000*, as well as ongoing programs such as minerals and lands.

2. Why is the title "Land Information System" used rather than "Geographic Information System?"

Land Information System (LIS) is used because Geographic Information System (GIS) refers primarily to a technology. BLM's LIS is a more comprehensive approach to land management. It is more than just the software and machinery involved. The LIS will integrate machinery, data, uses of those data and -- above all -- the users. The computer portion of LIS can only be valuable if skilled natural resource managers are present who can make high-quality decisions based on the provided information. Computers supply only the information. It takes people to supply the answers. Both are essential for the comprehensive approach to land management envisioned for LIS.

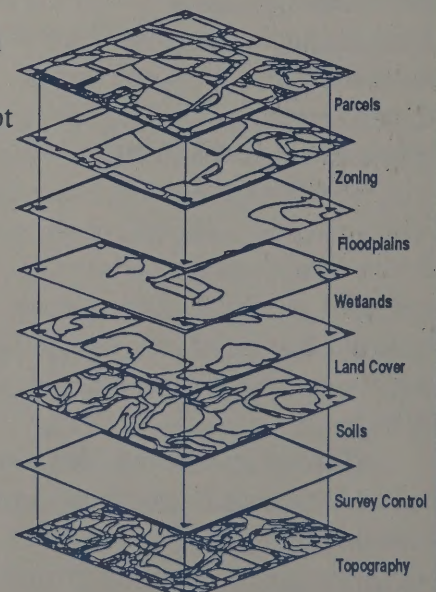
3. What can we tell people outside BLM about LIS?

Since BLM's contract for the LIS target system will be larger than any other ADP contract in the Interior Department, we expect extensive media and commercial interest. However, because contracting information is highly sensitive, we also have to be careful how we discuss LIS with other agencies, state and local governments, interest groups, and the media.

Therefore, when talking to outside groups, we must all avoid discussing such details as costs estimates, procurement strategies, comments or opinions on specifications or other contract requirements, comments or assessments of given technologies or proposed solutions to BLM requirements, information about BLM workload or internal processing systems. Refer all questions you receive about the target system to Bruce Beierle, SC-652 or (303) 236-6582.

However, when talking to people outside BLM, you can take advantage of this project's initiatives as a good news opportunity. You can talk about how BLM's operations will improve by modernization and automation and program benefits that the public will see in the 1990s. BLM expects that LIS will integrate resource data, lands and minerals records, and data from the Public Land Survey System. BLM automated files will be a valuable public asset by providing public land users with more complete and accurate responses to their questions about using the public lands. The LIS will also allow faster processing of applications for leases and permits to use the public lands. ■

Land
Information
Systems
The Concept
of Layers



Seasonal Hiring Procedures Streamlined

Changes in the way BLM hires seasonal employees this year have both applicants and Bureau employees seeing less red tape. The seasonal employment program, crucial to the BLM's mission, provides temporary field employees, from as early as March until as late as November, primarily for range, forestry and survey programs. The majority of these positions (approximately 85 to 90 percent) are devoted almost exclusively to fire prevention, detection and suppression activities. Other positions are in such programs as cultural resources, physical science, engineering and recreation.

For the past 6 years, BLM operated a centralized Bureauwide seasonal employment program through an automated rating and ranking system. However, BLM's Oregon State Office implemented a pilot program for the 1989 season using the State Employment Service Offices in lieu of the automated system as the recruiter, evaluator and referrer of candidates for seasonal employment.

The Oregon pilot was nearly identical with the system the U.S. Forest Service initially tested in 1987 and implemented agencywide for the 1989 season. The Oregon State Office reported favorable results and comments from both personnel and managerial and supervisory staffs on the operation of the pilot system. Based on the reports and the success of the Forest Service program, BLM decided to expand the pilot Temporary Seasonal Employment Program Bureauwide for the 1990 season.

This new program offers a number of advantages. First, applicants will no longer have to worry about getting the proper application form, completing it with the proper crediting codes and filing it by an application deadline. BLM will no longer have the time and expense of printing 10 to 20 thousand forms each year, processing 5 to 7 thousand through the Service Center,

and mailing forms and lists of eligibles to each State Office.

Secondly, managers and supervisors will be more involved in the process because they will send individual requests to the Employment Service with selective factors geared to the job to be filled. Only people currently available and interested in a position with BLM will be referred. Supervisors and managers will no longer have to make selections from lists that are 3 months old.

Each State Office has designated a personnel specialist as coordinator for the offices under its jurisdiction. It's expected that all activities necessary to begin using the system will be completed by December 1989 so that the first requests for referral can be sent to local Employment Service Offices in January 1990.

Applicants for seasonal employment must apply by registering to work at an Employment Service office, where they will complete the Employment Service work registration form. The Application for Federal Employment, SF-171, may also be required when the applicant registers for work, when referred to BLM for employment consideration and interview, or when appointed, depending on the State Office preference. No other BLM or Department of the Interior application form will be required or used.

There is no single application period for this program. Applicants may register for work from 30 days before up to the time that a list of eligibles is requested and still be considered for referral. They must also keep the Employment Service advised of their continued availability for work with BLM by contacting the Employment Service about every 30 days to maintain their name on the active list. If this is not done their name/record will be retained in an inactive file.

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Washington Office

New BLM Employees

Jennifer Fox, Geol., Min. Law & Salable Min.
Jack Williams, Fish. Biol., Wildlife & Fisheries
Lucia Kuizon, Geol., Min. Law & Salable Min.
Donna Thurber, Mgmt. Analyst, Info. Res. Mgmt.
Deborah Semachko, Pers. Mgmt. Spec., Personnel

Juliet Powell, Pers. Mgmt. Spec., Personnel
James Leo, Comp. Prog., Info. Res. Mgmt.

Reassignments/Promotions

Oscar Anderson, Nat. Res. Mgr., Lands & Realty, to Range Con., Range
Deborah Lanzone, Reg. Analyst, Legs. & Regs., to Cong. Liaison Spec., Cong. Affairs
Stephanie Hargrove, Supv. Land Law Exam., Idaho, to Mining Law Spec., Min. Law & Salable Min.
Darwin Priebe, Prog. Analyst, Nevada, to Budget Analyst, Budget
Queen Davis, Pers. Staff. Spec. to Pers. Mgmt. Spec., Personnel
Donald Simpson, Lands & Min. Records, Idaho, to Realty Spec., Lands & Realty
Margo Freeberg, Educ. Spec., Arizona, to Empl. Dev. Spec., Empl. Dev. Staff
Bruce Dawson, Range Con., Range
Gary Horton, Supv. Geol., Wyoming, to Sup. Min. Leasing Spec., Fluid Min. Leasing
Robert Donelson, Property Mgmt. Spec., Admin. Services
Durga Rimal, Geol., Oregon, to Min. Law & Salable Min.
Leslie Cone, Dept. Mgr. Dev. Prog. Trainee to LIS Info. Analyst, LIS Prog. Mgmt. Staff
Peter Ertman, Sup. Res. Mgmt. Spec., El Centro RAO, to Dept. Mgr. Dev. Prog. Trainee
Daniel Arvizo, Area Mgr., Owyhee RAO, to Dept. Mgr. Dev. Prog. Trainee
Denis Williamson, Environ. Prot. Spec., Salem DO, to Forester, Div. of Forestry

Retirements

Lee Laitala, Training Spec., Office of EEO
Bruce Sagalow, Pers. Class. Spec., Personnel
William Duddleson, Jr., Manpower Dev. Spec., Support Services

Other Separations

Spoffard Canfield IV, Cong. Affairs Ofcr.
Belynda Gentry, Emp. Dev. Spec.,
Catherine Kennard, Special Asst. to the Director
Andrei Bogolubov, Sup. Pub. Affairs Spec.

Arizona

New BLM Employees

Pat Walsh, Educ. Spec., SO
Bob Ernst, Geol., Phoenix DO

Reassignments/Promotions

Al Alvarez, Fire Mgmt. Ofcr. to Realty Spec., Safford DO
Larry Davis, Visual Info. Spec. to Comp. Spec., SO

Paul Meyer, Soil Sci., Wyoming, to Haz. Materials Coord., PTC
Scott Spooner, Geol., Utah, to Supv. Geol., Safford DO

Retirements

Don Doyen, Fire Mgmt. Spec., SO

Other Separations

Ken Mahoney, Out. Rec. Plan., Safford DO
Doug Stockdale, Pub. Affairs Spec., Yuma DO

California

New BLM Employees

Herrick Hanks, District Mgr., Susanville DO
Kenneth Downing, Geol., SO

Reassignments/Promotions

James Brown, Supv. Range Tech., Susanville DO
Anthony Danna, Area Mgr., Surprise RAO
Glenn Carpenter, Area Mgr., Caliente RAO
James McCavitt, Supv. Land Surv., SO
Robert Parker, Wildlife Mgmt. Biol., Ridgecrest RAO
Homer Nunn, Horse Wrangler, Susanville DO, to Range Tech., Riverside DO
Dale Anderson, Supv. Range Tech., Bak-ersfield DO
Patrick Welch, Archaeologist to Supv. Res. Mgmt., El Centro RAO
A.R. Pack-Lovelace, Equal Empl. Spec. to Equal Empl. Mgr., SO
John Huston, Comp. Spec., Susanville DO
James Anger, Admin. Ofcr., Susanville DO
Herrick Hanks, New Mexico, to District Mgr., Susanville DO
Mary Vigil, Realty Spec., Palm Springs RAO
Joan Honda, Land Surv., SO
Michael Mitchell, Archeol., Palm Springs RAO
Edward Patrovsky, BLM Ranger, Palm Springs RAO
Pamela Bartels, Comp. Spec., SO
Loren Whitcome, Fire Mgmt. Spec., Alturas RAO

Retirements

Charles Cleary, District Mgr., Susanville DO
Jon Tyner, BLM Ranger, Clear Lake RAO

Colorado

Reassignments/Promotions

Kristen Eshelman, Range Con., SC to SO
Judith Overy Field, Comp. Asst. to GIS Coord., Canon City DO
John Rift, Range Con., Uncompahgre RAO to SO
Glen Secrist, Range Con., WO, to Area Mgr., Little Snake RAO
David Smith, Fish. Biol., Grand Junction DO to Montrose DO
Gregory Toll, Nat. Res. Spec., Cody RAO, to Envir. Prot. Spec., San Juan RAO

Retirements

Neil Morck, State Director
Orvin Logan, Realty Spec., Grand Junction RAO

Other Separations

Carl James, Land Surv., SO
Gordon Zimmerman, Fire Mgmt. Spec., SO

Eastern States Office

Reassignments/Promotions

Sharon Kipping, Program Assist., Wild Horses & Burros Staff
Shirley Gilmore, Land Law Exam., Lands
Cathy Applegate, Writer-Editor, Pub. Affairs
Thelma Wright, Land Law Exam., Lands
Terry Saarela, Mining Engineer, Jackson DO
Bert Rodgers, District Mgr., Milwaukee DO to Jackson DO

Other Separations

Kimberly Teuber, Nat. Res. Spec., Jackson DO
Chuck Campbell, Envir. Scientist, Jackson DO
Tom Mathews, Soil Con., Jackson DO, died June 1, 1989

Idaho

Reassignments/Promotions

Richard Olendorf, Wildlife Biol., California, to Supv. Wildlife Biol., Boise DO
Robert Hale, Area Mgr., Salmon DO, to Realty Spec., SO
Luella Carpenter, Land Law Exam., Boise DO to SO
Judith Phelps, Contact Rep. to Land Law Exam., SO
Rodger Schmitt, Mgmt. Analyst, WO, to Assoc. District Mgr., Boise DO
Harry Smith, Supv. Land Surv., Arizona to SO
Paul Reeves, Supv. Land Surv., Arizona, to Land Surv., SO
Marty Sharp, Outdoor Rec. Planner, Wyoming to Shoshone DO
Richard Kodeski, Land Use Spec., Montana, to Outdoor Rec. Planner, Idaho Falls DO
Donald Smurthwaite, Pub. Affairs Spec., Oregon, to Pub. Affairs Spec., SO
Janette Henderson, Health Tech., BIFC, to Safety & Occup. Health Mgr., SO

Montana

New BLM Employees

Robert Blumer, Electronics Tech., SO
Lowell Hassler, Nat. Res. Spec., Valley RAO
John Hodnik, Regional Econ., SO
Trudie Olson, Supv. Pub. Affairs Spec., SO

Reassignments/Promotions

Robert Allen, Visual Info. Spec., SO
Christopher Hoff, Wildlife Mgmt. Biol., Havre RAO to Powder River RAO
Gerard Majerus, Regional Econ., SO, to Land Use Spec., Lewistown DO
John McKay, Geol., SO to Butte DO

Retirements

Warren Gestring, Min. Res. Spec., Dickinson DO
David Peters, Land Use Spec., Miles City DO

Other Separations

Steven Durkee, Realty Spec., Powder River RAO
Del Harding, Supv. Pub. Affairs Spec., SO

Jeffrey Merkel, Pet. Engineer, Lewistown DO

Nevada

Reassignments/Promotions

Joseph Leaf, BLM Ranger, Idaho, to Crim. Investigator, SO
Timothy Reuwsaat, Range Con., Carson City DO, to Supv. Res. Prog. Spec., Ely DO
Hal Zabriskie, Range Con., Oregon, to Nat. Res. Spec., Tonopah RAO

Retirements

Jack Pfeiffer, Range Con., Stateline-Esmeralda RAO

Other Separations

Donald Hardenbrook, Wildlife Biol., Las Vegas DO
Guy Welch, Range Con., Ely DO
Elena Arellano, Realty Spec., Las Vegas DO
Craig Martell, Range Con., Shoshone-Eureka RAO

New Mexico

New BLM Employees

Maria Somers, Crim. Investigator, SO
Reassignments/Promotions
Bernard Chavez, Nat. Res. Spec. to Supv. Prog. Analyst, SO
Walter Hutte, Compliance Spec. to BLM Ranger, Carlsbad RAO
George Ruebelmann, Archeol., Montana to Carlsbad RAO

Don Boyer, Printing Spec., SO
Mary McCloskey, Mgmt. Analyst, SO, to Admin. Ofcr., Albuquerque DO
Gary Stephens, Supv. Geol., Albuquerque DO, to Geol., SO
Aaron Horton, Prog. Analyst, SO
Charles Schultz, Supv. Range Con., Calif., to Supv. Multi-Res. Spec., Taos RAO
Shirley Mondy, Pet. Engr., Albuquerque DO
Dean Carlson, Land Law Exam. to Supv. Land Law Exam., Albuquerque DO
Gary Stuckey, Geol., Colorado, to Supv. Geol., Tulsa DO

Retirements

Gerald Orr, Realty Spec., Roswell DO

Other Separations

John Renwald, Wildlife Mgmt. Biol., Farmington RAO
Barbara Anne Am Ende, Geol., Farmington RAO
William Driscoll, Pet. Engr., Tulsa DO
Robert Muller, Realty Spec., Albuquerque DO
Terrance Alan Martin, Supv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., SO
Howard Kelsey, Pet. Engr. Tech., Oklahoma RAO
Francis Magazino, Cartographer, Roswell DO
Victor Grizzle, Environ. Prot. Spec., Farmington RAO

Oregon

New BLM Employees

Eleanor Dahl, Electronics Tech., Medford DO

Michael Hamel, Visual Info. Spec., SO
Ronald Walker, Civil Engr., SO

Reassignments/Promotions

Robert Blaicher, Budget Analyst, Wyoming, to Program Analyst, SO
William Bradley, Supv. Forester, Eugene DO, to Assoc. District Mgr., Coos Bay DO
Terry Garren, Horticulturist to Supv. Horticulturist, Salem DO
Nancy Getchell, Realty Spec., Alaska to Malheur RAO
Jorgen Gulliksen, Asst. Area Mgr. to Fuels Mgmt. Spec., Yamhill RAO
James Massey III, Crim. Investigator, SO, to BLM Ranger, Ashland RAO
Linda Pope, Comp. Spec. to Supv. Comp. Spec., SO
Dale Stewart, Forester, Umpqua RAO to Myrtlewood RAO

Retirements

Dean Boe, Civil Engr., Lakeview RAO
Donald Buck Jr., Soil Scien., Tillamook RAO
Max Dolato, Supv. Forester, Santiam RAO
J. David Estola, Supv. Forester, SO
Charles Luscher, State Director
Minor Martin, Land Law Exam., SO

Other Separations

Lavelle Black, Supv. Lands & Min. Ops. Spec.
William Diskin, Forester, Glendale RAO
Patrick Haley, Forester, Umpqua RAO
Dale Rine, Forester, North Umpqua RAO
Diane Elise White, Forester, SO
Peter Zika, Botanist, South Valley RAO

Utah

New BLM Employees

James Harte, Hydrol., Moab DO

Reassignments/Promotions

Fred Oneyear, Pet. Engr. Tech., Wyoming, to I&E Spec., Moab DO
Brad Palmer, Geol., California, to Area Mgr., Grand RAO

Retirements

Mervin Miles, Nat. Res. Protect. Spec., San Rafael RAO
Wendell Christiansen, Maint. Mechanic, Price River RAO
E. Birrell Hirschi, Range Con., Henry Range RAO
Toribio Manzanares, Jr., Geol., Warm Springs RAO
James Piani, Supv. Min. Spec., Vernal DO

Other Separations

Stephen Strate, Electr. Tech., Richfield DO
John Swapp, Range Con., Beaver River RAO

Wyoming

New BLM Employees

John Henderson, Fish. Bio., Rock Springs DO
Sam McReynolds, Supv. Comp. Spec., SO
James Murkin, DSD, Division of L&RR, SO
Asghar Shariff, ADM, Minerals, Rawlins DO

Other Separations

Phyllis Denton, Mining Engr., Worland DO
John Morton, Range Con., Washakie RAO

Jack Mononi, Range Con., Worland DO

Service Center

New BLM Employees

Monte Camp, Contract Spec., Admin. Svcs.
Deborah Carter, Supv. Cartographer, Tech. Svcs.
Phillip Dittberner, Botanist, Data Mgmt.
Daniel Kawamoto, Civil Engr., Tech. Svcs.
Ernest Parrott, Architect, Tech. Svcs.
Kenneth Wilbert, Supv. Com. Spec., Sys. Engr.

Reassignments/Promotions

Irene Clapp, Supv. Contract Spec., Admin. Svcs.
Theresa Ely, Cartographer, Tech. Svcs.
Greg Graff, Supv. Program Analyst, Program Mgmt. Staff
Michael Kluherz, Operating Account., Finance
Clarence Pack, Supv. Nat. Res. Spec., Miles City DO, to Range Con., Data Mgmt.
Louise Trieste, Program Analyst, Program Mgmt. Staff
Douglas Wilcox, Geodesist, New Mexico to Tech. Svcs.
Carl Zulick, Supv. Nat. Res. Spec., Sys. Engr.

Retirements

Robert Leonard, Supv. Contract Spec., Admin. Svcs.
Daniel Lyons, Procurement Analyst, Admin. Svcs.

Other Separations

Connie Knittle, Contract Spec., Admin. Svcs.
Janet Madson, System Implement. Spec., Sys. Engr.
James Morris, Operating Account., Finance

Boise Interagency Fire Center

New BLM Employees

Carl Hair, Electrician, Mgmt. Svcs.

Reassignments/Promotions

Paul Naman, Forestry Tech., Alaska, to Supv. Equip. Spec., Fire Mgmt.

Retirements

Lyle Pope, Fire Mgmt. Spec., Fire Mgmt.

Tracking Personnel is compiled from information submitted by State Office Personnel Branches to the Service Center in Denver by the 15th of every other month. The next deadline for December/January submissions to the SC is November 15. If an office is not listed here, the submission was not received in the Service Center by the deadline. Submissions should be made through the electronic mail system to YA530.

BLM Around the Country

Secretary Recognizes BLM Special Agent

BLM Special Agent Chris Brong of California was recently recognized by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan for a record year in drug-related seizures and arrests on BLM public lands in California. In 1988 alone, Brong, along with other BLM law enforcement officials in California, seized nearly 14,000 marijuana plants, 2 illegal drug labs, 16 weapons, 8 booby traps, and made 24 drug-related arrests. 1989 brings another record year to California public lands, with nearly 23,000 marijuana plants eradicated so far. Brong accepts a certificate of recognition from Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan.



Cooperative project signed in Alaska

BLM Fisheries Biologist Lou Carufel (standing), watches managers from BLM and the Department of Fish and Game sign the White Mountains Aquatic Habitat Management Supplement he completed just prior to retirement. The signing took place on Carufel's last day of work after 45 years of service in federal and state governments in Alaska and the Lower 48. Signing were (left) Don Runberg, manager of BLM-Alaska's Steese White Mountains District; Margaret (Peggy) Merritt, acting regional supervisor for the Division of Sport Fish; and Al Ott, regional supervisor of the Division of Habitat. (BLM photo Sharon Durgan Wilson)



Utah Hosts Youth Range Resources Camp

The Utah BLM recently sponsored a 1989 Utah Youth Range Resources Camp at the Utah State University forestry field station in Logan Canyon. Twenty-six high school students from around the state participated in the six-day camp, which included lectures, fieldwork, tours of the University research facilities and recreational activities.

Becky Gravenmier and Clare Russell, range conservationists with the San Rafael Resource Area in Utah's Moab District, served as counselors and instructors for the camp. Gravenmier assisted in the planning of activities and schedules.

The purpose of the annual camp is to expose students to basic range management prin-

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BLM Around the Country



Deputy Director Dean Stepanek is congratulated by Secretary Lujan on being awarded the Presidential Rank Meritorious Service Award, the government's second highest civilian award.

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225

Former Deputy Director Roland Robison is congratulated by Secretary Lujan on receiving the highest Senior Executive Service Award, the Presidential Rank Distinguished Award.



Utah Hosts *Continued*

ciples and issues. The teens learn how to identify plants and press them for a collection. They gain a basic understanding of plant succession, range condition, environmental adaptations of plants, grazing systems, multiple use and environmental issues.

Part of the motivation for the Bureau is the projected shortage of range conservationists in BLM's future.

The campers are selected by their high school teachers or county agent and then sponsored by an organization. Many of the campers from past years have become outstanding student in range management. The top two students at the camp are selected to attend the National Society for Range Management meeting where they will compete with other high school students in the youth forum. That meeting will be held in Reno in February.

Employee Spotlight

Montanan Learns 'New Language' to Help Others

by Nancy Jimmerson Felke
Writer/Editor
Montana State Office

Learning a different language can be rewarding, knowing that you've worked hard to master something new. When you couple that with helping others, it becomes especially meaningful.

Victoria

Roth, Montana State Office land law assistant, is doing just that. The language she's learning? Braille. She types materials needed by blind students in the Billings school district.

Roth has done a lot of research in preparation for the volunteer work she's chosen. Using an old textbook and perseverance, Roth is teaching herself the detailed braille coding system so that she can eventually become a certified braille transcriber.

Braille is a system of touch reading for the blind that uses embossed dots evenly arranged in quadrangular letter spaces or cells. These cells are created on a six-key braille writer by selecting one or several keys at a time.

Roth compares braille typing to court reporting because both systems use abbreviations and contractions. The most difficult part for Roth, she says, is memorizing all the codes. "It's a whole new language," she said.

Until she masters the braille system, Roth does most of her typing on a special IBM type-

writer with braille features, a machine that is like a regular typewriter, but embosses in braille. Once she learns the braille coding system, she will use the regular six-key braille writer.

Although this is a difficult process to learn, Roth says it will eventually be faster, more efficient and less expensive than the special IBM machine owned by the school district.

Because Roth does not have direct contact

with the students she types for, nor is she paid, she says her reward is in knowing she has helped someone.

"I think you appreciate things a lot more when you're helping someone who can't see," she said. "We can look outside and say 'Well, another blue day,' and you don't think of things they can't see. They can hear the wind, but



Victoria Roth of the Montana State Office uses IBM braille typewriter for volunteer work in her home.

they can't see the clouds."

In addition to her volunteer typing, Roth reads and runs errands for a blind couple. She reads the couple's mail, including bills and letters from friends.

"Just think of how you'd have to trust people," she said. "They're so vulnerable...they have to be trusting. It's like they're isolated from the rest of the world."

Roth emphasizes the growing need for volunteers in this area. What kind of person does it take? "Sincere...dependable and dedicated," Roth said. "You have to enjoy what you're doing because it's very time consuming. It will really open your eyes." ■

Oregon Student Honored for Public Land Science Project

By Bob Kindschy & Jerry Hubbard
Vale District

Scholarship and, in particular, science education is said to be on the wane in the nation's schools. Few would think that a small farming town in eastern Oregon, in the days of urbanized America, would produce national-class science scholars.

However, when you mix the inspiration of one of Oregon's finest science teachers, the enthusiasm of a brilliant high school senior, and the fascinating natural resources of the public lands in southeastern Oregon, you can get just that sort of a winning combination.

Nyssa, a small farming town (pop. 3,400) on the banks of the Snake River in the eastern-most edge of Oregon, is the home of Mary Omberg, a science teacher at Nyssa High School. Omberg has worked closely with the Vale BLM district for 11 years, selecting research projects for her students that are both interesting to them and worthwhile to the district's programs.

Guided by her keen eye for the value of a project and rigorous standards for scientific investigation, Omberg's students frequently take honors at local and state science fairs. Omberg herself has been the recipient of numerous awards for her teaching abilities, including being a semi-finalist last year in the nationwide Take Pride in America awards program.

Last year, Omberg teamed up with BLM wildlife biologist Bob Kindschy and identified an unusual community of white sage, or "winterfat," on the Mendi Gori playa as an ideal area for a science project. There, in the southeast-most corner of Oregon, the winterfat grows in a pure stand, contrasting with the sterile, snow-white alkali of the dry lake bed. In the surrounding upland areas, the winterfat grows in association with other shrubs common to salt deserts. As the nickname "winterfat" suggests, white sage provides highly nutritious forage for mule deer and pronghorn antelope, as well as for wild horses, domestic cattle, and sheep on the desert ranges.

Enter Teresa Matsunaga, one of Omberg's top science students. Matsunaga had studied bitterbrush, another shrub common to the western range and the relationship between soil type and beneficial fungal infection of its roots. This beneficial, or mycorrhizal, infection of the roots helped the plant be more efficient in absorbing water and nutrients. But this type of research had never been done for white sage and the more harsh environment of the salt deserts of southeast Oregon.

With maps in hand, Omberg and Matsunaga set out for the remote "outback" of Oregon. They established a systematic sampling of the white sage plants, surrounding plant community, and soil properties on both the lake bed and on the surrounding desert uplands. They found that the white sage had the beneficial fungus infection on the uplands



sites, but not on the playa sampling plots. Since there was no appreciable difference in the soil properties she measured, Matsunaga concluded that the difference in infection was mainly due to the abundance of the fungus on other plants on the uplands.

With occasional guidance from her instructor, Matsunaga organized her research into a scientific manuscript. She presented her work at the Nyssa-Vale Science Symposium last fall and was judged best of several dozen high school

Teresa Matsunaga, Nyssa High school student, has been selected as one of the top 300 science students in the United States at the prestigious Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

Continued on page 12

Wyoming Children

(Continued from page 2)

A dedication of the Bolton Creek Riparian Demonstration Area and Environmental Education Area was held near the end of the school year. The student body gathered to recognize the sixth graders' work at Bolton Creek, where the class bequeathed the Riparian Demonstration Area to the children of Westwood School. A "Key to Bolton Creek's Future" was presented to a member of the fifth grade.

Time will be the true and lasting test of the success on Bolton Creek. This important ecological area will need years of caring management. But one thing is certain, the work done by the class of 1988-89 made an indelible impression on them. Statements made by the boys and girls showed that working hands-on in the environment was the most important science study they had done in their elementary education.

In writing their personal conservation ethic, they expressed an enlightened concern for the environment and a desire to continue their roles as caretakers of natural resources. ■

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Alaska's Student

(Continued from page 3)

include four new state or private industry sponsors in the program. VISTA Volunteer Sharon White joined me Sept. 1 as assistant RAPS coordinator. We have been awarded a \$22,000 Migrant Education Grant from the Alaska Department of Education for the coming year and we've also applied for a Job Training Partnership Act Grant.

"Someday they may be working side by side with BLM as Native corporation employees. If we are mentors to them now, they will have a better understanding of how government agencies work. We would like to develop advocates for land management in rural Alaska." ■

Seasonal Hiring

(Continued from page 5)

Both BLM and the Employment Service will provide employment and registration information. However, BLM personnel offices will be the primary contact for registration and employment information. People who live in far western states where BLM offices are located may register at a local Employment Service Office nearest where they live, if that is where they wish employment. People who live in the West and want employment outside their local area, or those who live in the East, should contact a BLM office for employment information and then register at the Employment Service Office where they wish to be employed. ■

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Oregon Student Honored

(Continued from page 11)

science presentations. Next, she won the Oregon Junior Academy of Science competition. A second place in microbiology at the Northwest Science Exposition followed.

Ultimately, Matsunaga was selected as one of the top 300 science students in the United States at the prestigious Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Only one other student from Oregon qualified.

It was a winning combination: an outstanding science teacher, a motivated student, and a little-known natural resource of the public lands. Rangeland managers now have an additional piece of information to guide the management of desert plant communities, and a student has been recognized for her promise as a young scientist. ■

Inside Track

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Inside Track, BLM's employee newsletter, is published every other month by the Division of Public Affairs.

Tracking Personnel is compiled from information submitted by State Office Personnel Branches to the Service Center in Denver.